Penalties for Violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

2081. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to starred Question 191, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a final view on the revised penalties for contravening the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there has been rise in wildlife crimes, even by the zoo staff members; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Proposals for enhancing the penalties for wildlife offences has not been finally approved.

(b) does not arise.

(c) The process of examination of the proposals has yet not been completed.

(d) and (e) An unusual case of killing of Caiman crocodile by zoo staff in Nandan Kanan Zoo, Bhubaneswar, on 27-7-2000 has come to the notice of the Government. The staff has been dismissed and prosecution has been launched against him.

Recovery of Tortoises in Andhra Pradesh

2082. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rare varieties of 200 tortoises and 100 carcasses were recovered in Andhra Pradesh in October, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to protect the live tortoises?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) State Government has reported that 336 Indian Soft Shelled turtles (*Lissemys punctaqta*) were seized at Gokavaram in east Godavari district

on 15.10.2000. Of the 336 turtles seized, 184 were live and they were released in river Godavari. Remaining 152 were dead which were buried after due panchanama. A case has been registered under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the car tansporting the turtles illegally was confiscated. A case has been registered against the three accused.

India becoming Dumping Ground for Toxic Waste

2083. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India continues to be a dumping ground for toxic waste, as more than 100,887 tonnes of hazardous and potentially hazardous wastes are reported to have entered the country illegally, in violation of the Supreme Court Order of 1997, banning such imports, as per Government statistics for 1998-99, compiled and released by Greenpeace recently;

(b) if so, the steps taken to tighten the monitoring mechanism in this behalf; and

(c) the details of specific measures initiated after the Supreme Court and the extent to which they have proved effective?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. As per details made available by the Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta items covered under the following EXIM code have been imported in to the country during April 1988 to March 1999.

S.No.	EXIM CODE	ITEMS
1.	74040001	Waste and scrap of copper
2.	26201900	Other ashes and residues containing mainly zinc
3.	78020000	Lead waste and scrap
4.	79020000	Zinc waste and scrap
5.	81100002	Waste and scrap of antimony
6.	81120002	Waste and scrap of chromium
7.	85481000	Waste and scrap of primary shells and batteries
8.	81051002	Waste and scrap of cobalt
9.	81129119	Waste and scrap of Holffnium Indium etc.
10.	81071002	Waste and scrap of cadmium and its aloys
11.	26201100	Hard zinc spelter